



Breeding Bird Survey

FOR
ST ANDREWS COURT


13.07.2020


ON BEHALF OF



Dublin City Council
Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath

Prepared by
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St. Andrews Court - Breeding Bird Assessment.

Enviroguide Consulting were contracted by Dublin City Council to carry out a breeding bird survey at St. Andrews Court, Fenian St, Dublin 2.

The proposed development comprises the demolition and removal of all buildings and structures, including foundations and services. This includes the 2 no. existing pram sheds and raised amenity area within the site boundary. It may be necessary to carry out service diversions as part of the works, should services be encountered that serve other nearby buildings. It is proposed to regrade the site to tie in with existing footpath levels. A permeable asphalt surface for ease of maintenance is proposed in place of the existing buildings and concrete, tarmac and paved surfacing. Supplementary public lighting will be provided if deemed necessary.

The block comprises 14 no. units (2 no. 1 bed apartments, 4 no. bedsits, 8 no. duplex units) with a density of 107 units per Ha. The demolition is proposed as the existing units are below current Building Regulation and housing standards.



Figure 1 Site Layout

1 BACKGROUND

Enviroguide Consulting was commissioned by Dublin City Council to undertake a Breeding Bird Survey of the site of the proposed development site at St. Andrews Court Dublin 2. This was carried out on the 9th July 2020 by Jim Dowdall Director Enviroguide Consulting.

Jim has an MSc in Chemistry and LLM in Environmental and Natural Resources Law. He is an experienced ornithologist having over 40 years' experience with particular interest in population dynamics and bird identification. He has published extensively in both National and International Ornithological Journals the most recent being in the Auk, describing the discovery of a new species of storm petrel to science by a team of Irish and American ornithologists of which he was part.

Jim has served on the Irish Rare Birds Committee, the Cape Clear Bird Observatory Council and three terms as a board member of Birdwatch Ireland the most recent ending in June 2019.

1.1 Bird Survey – July 2020

A breeding bird survey was carried out on 9th July 2020. The site entrance and car park has mature trees while to the west, an area of buddleia is growing along the western perimeter. This latter species is deemed an invasive species.

1.2 Birds

The following species were recorded during the site visit on 9th July 2020.

Herring Gull	Two birds recorded on site – no evidence of breeding.
Lesser-black Backed Gull	One bird recorded flying over the site
Magpie	A family party recorded on site. A partially built nest was found in one of the trees but they are more likely to have bred approximately 30 metres to the east where a full nest was found.
Woodpigeon	An occupied nest was present in one of the trees within the site

1.3 Conclusion:

The only species proven to breed on the site is Woodpigeon. None of the other species were deemed to be breeding. In some cases Herring Gull breeds on rooftops however there was no evidence of this as they did not have any young (which would be obvious by their calls) and they took food that was put out by one of the residents and ate it themselves – if they were feeding young they would have returned to the young with food.

The building was examined for likely nest holes for species such as Starlings and House Sparrows but none was found. There was no evidence of any other species such as Swift or House Martin using the site. None of the above-mentioned species were seen near the site.

2 MITIGATION MEASURES

While the site is not considered to be of any ecological importance for birds any impacts on those present will be avoided by scheduling any hedge or tree clearance works for the non-breeding season (October – February).



Figure 2 Site showing building and trees in carpark.



Figure 3 General view of building showing no evidence of birds nesting within the building

2.1 Conclusion

It is the considered opinion of the Enviroguide Ecologist that the proposed development (demolition works) on this site will not cause any significant negative impacts on bird species. It is recommended that any trees on site be removed outside the breeding season i.e. between October and February.